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Letter dated 12 December 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you on behalf of the 118 members of the Non-Aligned Movement with regard to the situation in Somalia.

In the light of the meeting on this issue to be held by the Security Council on Tuesday, 16 December 2008, the Non-Aligned Movement considers important to reiterate its call for an integrated and comprehensive approach to peace, stability and development in Somalia.

The Movement condemns all acts of piracy and armed robbery against vessels in the territorial waters of Somalia and the seas off the coast of Somalia, which have hampered humanitarian aid to Somalia and pose a threat to commercial maritime and international navigation in the region.

At the same time, the Non-Aligned Movement considers important not to lose sight of the root causes of the worsening piracy issue. It is only a symptom of the political, security and humanitarian crisis that has been taking place in Somalia for many years.

A long-term solution to the problem of piracy will be found only through a comprehensive political settlement in Somalia, with the cooperation of the United Nations and the African Union.

The Non-Aligned Movement appreciates the important role played by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in addressing the security situation in Somalia. The Movement calls for more sustained and coordinated efforts by the international community to support the peace efforts in Somalia. The people of Somalia need the full support of the international community in this difficult moment.

The Movement welcomes the intention expressed by Ali Ahmed Jama, the Foreign Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, to participate in the meeting on Somalia to be held by the Security Council on Tuesday, 16 December 2008, in order to brief the Council on the latest developments in that country.

It is the opinion of the Non-Aligned Movement that members of the Security Council should duly take into account the information and positions that will be conveyed to them by the Foreign Minister of Somalia in deciding any further action

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on the situation in Somalia. In that context, the Movement emphasizes that any action taken on the situation in Somalia should respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.

I request that you kindly distribute this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileana Nuñez **Mordoche**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau
of the Non-Aligned Movement